

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 210547Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5121

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T CANBERRA 1168

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN INTENTIONS TOWARDS PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: A) STATE 038029; B) CANBERRA 1138; C) JAKARTA 1731

D) CANBERRA 1158

1. REFTELS A & B CROSSED, ALTHOUGH REF B PARTIALLY ANSWERS
SOME OF QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 3 REF A.

2. INTERESTING SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED AUSTRALIAN
PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS POSSIBLE
INDONESIAN MOVE AGAINST PORTUGUESE TIMOR IS CONTAINED
IN ARTICLE BY PETER HASTINGS, EXPERIENCED AND RESPECTED
OBSERVER, IN SYDNEY MORNING HERALD OF FEB 21.
TEXT REPORTED REF D.

3. HASTINGS IS VERY CLOSE TO JOINT INTELLIGENCE
ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR GORDON JOCKEL AND HIS
INFORMATION ON INDONESIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY
ALMOST CERTAINLY STEMS FROM JIO RATHER THAN FROM
"LETTERS AND LEAKS FROM JAKARTA" AS HE SUGGESTS.
SINCE ARTICLE GOES ON TO ANTICIPATE VERY SHARP
AUSTRALIAN AND WORLD REACTION TO ANY GOI TAKEOVER
OF TIMOR BY FORCE WE MUST SUSPECT THIS ARTICLE WAS
PLANNED BY GOA OR AT LEAST JIO AS A WARNING TO

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INDONESIA.

4. AFTER US INTELLIGENCE BRIEF HAS BEEN PASSED TO GOA (PARA 3, REF A), WE WILL REVIEW ENTIRE SUBJECT AT SENIOR LEVEL OF GOA AS SUGGESTED.

5. RE SHARING OF US INTELLIGENCE WITH GOA, US AND AUSTRALIAN CONCERNS OVER THIS SITUATION ARE ESSENTIALLY COMPATIBLE, ALTHOUGH INTENSITY OF PUBLIC INTEREST IS GREATER IN AUSTRALIA AND IS REINFORCED BY SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. AUSTRALIANS OF COURSE HAVE THEIR OWN QUITE EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES ON INDONESIA. WHY SHOULD INDONESIANS SUSPECT WE HAVE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ENCOURAGED SOME AUSTRALIAN DEMARCHE? ASIDE FROM US SOURCE SENSITIVITY, WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE THE CENTRAL QUESTION, WE ARE NOT AT ALL CLEAR AS TO WHAT US HAS TO GAIN IN NOT LEVELLING QUITE FULLY WITH GOA ON OUR INFORMATION. AS THIS PROBLEM EVOLVES WE WILL CERTAINLY WISH TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH GOA AND GOA POSITION WILL BE VERY SIGNIFICANT. AUSTRALIANS ARE ALREADY AWARE THAT WE ARE WITHOLDING SOME SORT OF SENSITIVE DATA AND THIS EMBASSY WOULD ARGUE THAT OUR INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED BY MAINTAINING MAXIMUM CONFIDENCE WITH GOA IN WHAT MAY BECOME A VERY DIFFICULT AND IN MANY WAYS, A COMMON PROBLEM FOR US BOTH.

6. WILL COMMENT ON LIKELIHOOD OF AUSTRALIAN DEMARCH SUCH AS SUGGESTED PARA 4 REF A AFTER FORTHCOMING DISCUSSION WITH GOA. IMAGINE GOA WILL BE RELUCTANT TO CAUTION GOI FOR SAME REASONS EMBASSY JAKARTA ARGUES AGAINST US DOING SO. THIS MAY EXPLAIN APPARENT EFFORT AT INDIRECT WARNING THROUGH THE HASTINGS ARTICLE.
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